

SPOKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

January 15, 2001

What's Inside



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Woodworkers vie for awards and prizes

By Tammy Somerville

Twenty-two second-year wood-working students at Conestoga vied for the college-sponsored fall Master Craft Awards Dec. 21. Winners earn a chance to move on to the college finals in May.

The awards, established in 1980 by then Conestoga College president Kenneth E. Hunter, were created to recognize the excellence of students' achievements in craftsmanship.

Machining III practical wood-working technology and technician students displayed their projects which included anything from night tables to desks and hutches to 10 faculty judges in hopes of improving their prospects for employment and their chances of winning \$500 in cash or tools.

The winners, one chosen from each program, will move on to the semi-finals in April when their projects will go up against those entered by students in the summer and winter semesters.

Second-year woodworking technology student, Mark Grabreck, won with his turn-of-the-century mission-style dresser.

"I chose to make a dresser to have somewhere to put my clothes. If you could see where they are now, you would understand why," said Grabreck.

Each of the five drawers in the dresser took approximately eight hours to make.

All of the furniture in his house is side-of-the-road treasures or second-hand junk, Grabreck said, adding his resourcefulness is what helped him complete his winning project.

"The cedar (drawer) bottoms were made from the leftover siding of my house and the mirror came from a broken one found on the side of the road."

Although he does not yet have a shop of his own, Grabreck uses the large supply of tools in his garage and those belonging to his in-laws.

Woodworking comes almost natural to Grabreck who said it is something he has always been interested in.

"I got A's in woodworking in high school and D's in English," he said laughing.

The award-winning dresser was the first piece he built for himself and he is very proud of his achievement and his work.

"I was constantly doing work on it. Before I worked on it I went through a plan in my head of what to do. It took a lot of effort, but I'm hoping it will help with a job," said Grabreck.

He hopes his achievement will help him land a job where he can concentrate more on designing because he enjoys that aspect of the trade more than anything else.

"I really like Auto Cad. I get really good marks. In fact, I think I'm at the top of my class," said Grabreck.

The Master Craft Award goes to the person whose project is judged to exhibit the highest level of excellence.

*Dennis O'Reilly,
woodworking
program co-ordinator*

Scott Jensen, the second-year woodworking technician student who won the semester's Master Craft award for his program, had not given much thought to the benefits of winning the contest and in fact had to be convinced to enter.

Jensen's cherry wood wine cabinet, which holds five bottles and is his biggest project to date, was also made for personal reasons.

"I've been collecting red wine for the last little while and I wanted to have a piece of furniture to store it in for dinners and stuff," said Jensen, who added that he believed it was the first time a student had built anything like his cabinet.

Although having had a multitude of jobs and an art degree from university, Jensen didn't find his way to the woodworking program at Conestoga until a stomach-upsetting event as a nighttime cab driver.

"The last job I had was a nighttime cab driver and somebody puked in the car. That's when I said 'That's it, I gotta do something else.'"

Board balance



Kyle Patrick, 4, practises his snowboarding skills by sliding down the slopes at Doon Child Care Centre Dec. 20. Although he took a few tumbles, Kyle never gave up. The entire junior kindergarten class spent time going down the makeshift bunny hill.

(Photo by Tammy Somerville)

Affinity agreement signed

By Kyla Rowntree

The alumni association at Conestoga College has signed an affinity agreement in principle only with the MBNA Canada Bank.

The MBNA Bank is going to use the alumni mailing lists to provide the alumni with the opportunity to apply for a new credit card bearing Conestoga's logo.

The MBNA Bank of Canada will pay the association a royalty calculated from the credit card accounts with active charging privileges.

The MBNA will pay the association \$1 for each new account opened for a least 90 consecutive days.

The bank will also pay \$1 for each alumni customer credit account or student customer credit account which has a balance greater than zero.

Another 0.35 per cent of all retail purchase transactions measured in dollars, generated by the alumni

using the credit card, will go to the alumni association.

"This is a great way to generate money back into the college," said Monica Himmelman, an alumni services officer.

The credit card bears no annual fee and the annual percentage rate will be a fixed rate of 16.99 per cent.

The MBNA Bank is also offering customers opportunities to select credit insurance as a benefit under the program.

Seven other colleges in Ontario including Algonquin, Humber, Sheridan, Fanshawe, Michener Institute, Durham and Centennial have also signed the affinity agreement with MBNA Bank.

Himmelman said the affinity agreements with the other colleges have been successful. She also said the affinity agreement Conestoga College has with Johnson Insurance has been rewarding.

Continued on Page 3

Award winners represent high level of excellence

Continued from Page 1

Jensen's cabinet will compete against a hutch built by Don MacKay, winner for the woodworking technology program's summer semester.

Grabreck will not know who and what he is up against until April when a winner will be chosen from the woodworking technician program's winter semester.

"I chose to make a dresser to have somewhere to put my clothes. If you could see where they are now, you would understand why."

Mark Grabreck,
Master Craft Award winner

Dennis O'Reilly, woodworking program co-ordinator, said students could choose to make whatever they wanted with the only course requirement being it had to have a moving working door.

"This requires them to apply hardware and fit the door, giving them better skills. The course project is set up so there are design skills involved. They designed it in first-year machining and started building it in September," said O'Reilly.

While Grabreck and Jensen did not receive a prize, the winners chosen to represent each program in April will receive a power tool.

"The Master Craft Awards goes to the person whose project is judged to represent the highest level of excellence of all the projects entered," said O'Reilly.



Scott Jensen, a second-year woodworking technical student, won a Master Craft Award with his cherry wood wine cabinet Dec. 21. Jensen was inspired by his new-found hobby of collecting red wine.

(Photo by Tammy Somerville)



Mark Grabreck, a second-year woodworking technology student, won the fall semester's Master Craft Award for his turn-of-the-century mission-style dresser Dec. 21. He moves on to the semi-finals in April when someone will be chosen to represent the technology program for the finals in May.

(Photo by Tammy Somerville)

Conestoga
College

Quality Policy

Conestoga College continually seeks opportunities for improvement to meet and exceed the needs of our students, employees and communities.

ISO 9001
Setting new standards.
Conestoga
College

College official helps update Polskie Radio

By Sanja Musa

Pat St. John, vice-president of training and development and continuing education at Conestoga College, has completed the second part of an initiative helping a radio station in Poland gain knowledge and tools to apply democratic principles in radio broadcasting.

Polskie Radio emerged in 1993 when the previously amalgamated Polish radio and television separated into two independent media, but the former communist regime has been experiencing technical difficulties in establishing a public broadcasting system.

The Polish government, through the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, sent a request for proposals to colleges and universities in Ontario. In the request the Polish authorities asked for management and program delivery technical assistance for Polskie Radio in defining its role and mandate as a public broadcaster in a competitive market place and assistance in developing capacity for training employees and acquiring the skills required to implement new technology.

According to St. John, Conestoga College initially learned about the request in October 1999 and submitted its proposal in time for the November 1999 deadline.

Because of the complexity of the issues, the college divided the project into several phases.

The first phase of the project was completed about seven months

ago. It consisted of teaching the senior radio staff how to develop strategies, goals and objectives and how to incorporate these plans for the entire organization.

"We had to reverse the planning process and get them to look at using all their employees as a team to give the listeners information," said St. John, who has 25 years of experience in the broadcasting field.

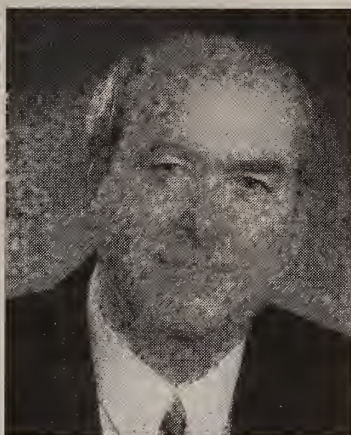
The second phase consisted of giving Polskie Radio the tools and knowledge to compete with private broadcasters.

Conestoga College provided Polskie Radio with information on researching audience, targeting the channels more effectively to find what the audience really wants, understanding how the private broadcasters do their programming, how they set up their music systems and how they develop their public news programming.

"Our job was to demonstrate how public radio should work and to help the Polskie Radio staff realize how to compete within the private deregulated environment they now face," said St. John. "We gave them insight and the tools to become a better public broadcaster and to become more competitive within a deregulated broadcasting environment and independent broadcasting."

Polskie Radio, consisting of four different programs, is similar to the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., St. John said.

PR 1 is very similar to CBC Radio 1, because it broadcasts news and information.



Pat St. John, vice-president of training and development and continuing education at Conestoga College, went to Poland to assist a radio station in applying democratic principles to radio broadcasting.

PR 2 broadcasts mainly classical music. PR 3 targets young adults and PR 4 targets children with an educational and scientific approach.

However, lack of knowledge on how to target each program resulted in a decreased audience.

"It (Polskie Radio) was losing its battle because it doesn't really know how to target its programs," St. John said. "The audience for the independent broadcasters is rapidly increasing. The audience for Polskie Radio is rapidly declining because it is stuck with an old way of doing things and it has to come forward and learn how to do things in a new environment."

St. John's mission also consisted of teaching the public radio broadcasters that the government should not be interfering with any public broadcasting.

"We are trying to teach them how government should be at arm's length from public broadcasting. To keep the government at arm's length is the cornerstone of a democratic society."

During the communist regime, the appointments of directors in the broadcasting and communications industries were based on service to the government, instead of experience and expertise. Each channel tended to be the spokesperson for a different political party, according to St. John.

"This was a prestigious appointment to the highest ranking officials to look after one of the government channels. Experience or expertise wasn't a part of their appointment, but a political award for strong service to the government," he said.

St. John also noted that Polish people are highly motivated, very interested and eager to learn how broadcasting is done in other countries.

"The people there are absolutely wonderful," he said. "They are moving in the right direction and I think that they have made tremendous progress."

The Polskie Radio representatives expressed their concern that they were afraid of slipping back to the regulated government system during the final ceremony prepared for St. John and about 40 other officials.

"They would like us back just to provide some consultation to the certain areas to keep moving forward," St. John said.

He said he would be very pleased to go back. "Poland is a rising star in Europe," he said.

Conestoga College will be working on two more similar projects.

One project will be in Mexico and another in Brazil and each will last for approximately five years.

St. John said that he hopes Conestoga will be heavily involved in the other two projects.

"We have faculty throughout this college who are tops in their areas of expertise," he said. "They would make this school and this community proud if we sent them to Brazil, Mexico or Poland to do some teaching and training."

Conestoga students from various programs such as marketing, advertising, promotions, human resources and all communications programs would have a chance to go to other countries on their work terms.

St. John added that more international projects would help the college in establishing the School of Communication and Media.

"We (Conestoga College) are getting ready to launch the School of Communication and Media and we would certainly want to have a much higher profile," he said.

"We want to be the best School of Communication and Media in Canada. One of the tools to get that recognition is to do international consulting."

Hurdles had to be overcome: Himmelman

Continued from Page 1

"This is a wonderful way to raise money," said Himmelman. "It is a great way to give back to the students. We (the alumni association) want to maybe be able to provide a residence some day for the students the way universities do."

Universities have alumni that fund certain halls and facilities at the institutions. Conestoga's alumni want to be able to fund a residence here for the students.

Himmelman said she had to overcome several hurdles before the

affinity agreement was signed. She had to present the idea to the college before the mailing list could be given to the bank because it is the college that owns the database with over 25,000 alumni names.

Himmelman said she had to become familiar with the Freedom of Information Act to determine how to proceed.

When students register at the college they give permission for the college to use their names to promote any kind of service at the college.

"We completely respect that peo-

ple may not want their names given out. Some people may not want their names given out to the MBNA Bank and that is not a problem. If those people who do not want their names given out would contact me, we can easily code their names in our database so the MBNA is not given their names."

The MBNA Bank is the world's largest independent credit card issuer with managed loans of \$84.7 billion. The company has international operations throughout the U.S., Canada, Ireland and the UK.



Monica Himmelman, of alumni services, displays the credit card that will be part of the affinity agreement the alumni association signed with the MBNA Bank on Nov. 30. (Photo by Kyla Rowntree)

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Canada



Hope for best in print shop resolution

We have a "made-at-Conestoga" solution to the print shop outsourcing decision.

The four current staff will remain in the print shop as employees of the college, but the college intends to contract the operation of the print shop to Grenville Services, a reprographics company out of Toronto.

While it's not the solution preferred by the print shop staff who also bid on the contract, it is a solution that takes into consideration the staff's desire to remain employees of Conestoga College.

The employees were told they could apply for a one-year leave of absence from the college to work for the contracted employer and if after one year they wished to stay with the contract company, they could opt to do so.

If they did not want to remain employees of the new company, they could exercise their bumping and layoff rights contained in their collective agreement and return to work at the college.

It is the hope of everyone at the college that this Conestoga solution will result in a financially more efficient operation that maintains or improves existing service and that the print shop staff are treated fairly by the contract company.

But the employees refused these options and continued to tell Conestoga management that they wanted to remain employees of Conestoga.

You have to admire their tenacity. They forced the college to take their position into account and to find another alternative.

The decision was a long time in coming.

The college originally had hoped to make a decision by Oct. 1 last year, but provincial support staff contract negotiations and the complexity of the alternatives considered made for a lengthy review and decision process.

The delay left the print shop employees wondering about their futures for much too long, but the decision will hopefully be the best possible solution for the college and the print shop staff as well as the college's other employees and students who use the facility.

The decision accommodates the print shop staff's desire to remain Conestoga employees and it supports the staff's stated need to maintain or improve existing service levels while allowing the introduction of new equipment, newer technologies and a greater range of service which addresses the college's concerns.

The college stated in a memo to the college's employees that combining the reprographic expertise and reputation of Grenville with the proven human resource base of the existing print shop staff will ensure that service levels are maintained or further enhanced.

It remains to be seen if this will happen. It is the hope of everyone at the college that this Conestoga solution will result in a financially more efficient operation that maintains or improves existing service and that the print shop staff are treated fairly by the contract company.



The innocent need answers

If you have children, be concerned, be very, very concerned. Consider home schooling because there is no one to protect them from teacher pedophiles like Ronald Archer.

Archer, forced out of three consecutive schools during his 28-year career as an elementary teacher, was found guilty Oct. 27 of sexual assault with a weapon, sexual exploitation and uttering death threats.

Michael Schmidt, 19, brought charges against Archer in 1998 after almost five years of abuse. The abuse included everything from fondling to anal intercourse.

There is some relief that he was finally brought to justice, but it's not enough. Others are accountable for what happened to numerous unnamed boys and Schmidt, the rough-and-tumble teenager from a broken home who put a stop to Archer's reign of sick terror on innocence.

Archer was not a sexual predator roaming parks and downtown streets for lost youth who could be easy prey.

He was a teacher, allowed to do his work in broad daylight, spreading his degenerate and nauseating guidance in the very place where the community should feel that children are secure.



Tammy Somerville

gut feelings.

I blame all of those who turned a blind eye, refusing to face the ugly reality of what was going on.

Every one of them should apologize to Michael Schmidt and all of the children who fell victim to someone they should have been able to trust, confide in and look to for guidance. Their lives are destroyed. They can never forget.

There were enough serious suspicions and legitimate fears raised by students, parents and Archer's colleagues to justify some action that might have spared Schmidt from the endless nightmare he endured.

Long before Schmidt's dance with the devil, alarms were going off concerning Archer.

In 1983, angry parents questioned Archer's use of graphic street language during sex education classes at Stanley Park senior public school.

In 1992 a student at Wilmot senior public school claimed Archer

made sexual advances toward her. At Forest Glen public school, teachers and parents were worried about Archer's relationship with some of the boys in his gymnastics club. He showered with them. He was showering with them! He was found with Schmidt on the couch in a locked classroom at the same school.

Archer was forced to leave these schools and was passed around like a virus, everyone trying to rid themselves of it, but never taking the right medicine.

The records from each school where he taught were thrown out or shredded, leaving the next school and its students more susceptible. They never had a chance.

The board says it is going to review the transcripts of the court case to decide what to do. That's not enough.

I want to know why this happened. How could it happen? How could Archer get that far?

I need to know, the community needs to know and we deserve to know. I need some assurance that when my son starts school next year, I will be able to sleep at night. I want to be able to walk him to the bus without my gut rotting from fear, wondering if the next time I look in his blue-green eyes if they will still have that sparkle of innocence.

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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Students benefit from articulation

By Quan La

Conestoga College has articulation agreements which permit the college's graduates to obtain advanced standing at several universities where they can obtain a baccalaureate in a year and a graduate degree in two years.

April-Dawn Blackwell, a Conestoga College graduate, went to

Australia two years ago after obtaining her business administration - management studies diploma to complete a bachelor of business at the University of Western Sydney.

She said she went to Western Sydney because it had a program applicable to her Conestoga program, she was only required to complete eight courses and the location was very appealing.

Blackwell currently works with a boutique firm in Kitchener as a human resources consultant.

Laura Brillinger, a Conestoga College marketing graduate, travelled to Australia two years ago to obtain a degree in marketing at Western Sydney. She said she had always wanted to go to Australia and this was her chance.

Scott Lichty, a Conestoga College

marketing graduate, went to Australia six months ago because of the one-year degree opportunity. He was interested in the out-of-province degree completion agreements at Western Sydney in Australia, Hawaii Pacific University in Hawaii and Royal Roads University in British Columbia, but Western Sydney was his first choice because he had talked to other students who had completed the program and had loved it.

He said the reason he got a degree was because the business world is split on the issue of whether a graduate requires a university degree or college diploma, but he'll have both. He said the international exposure is also something that will make him stand out in the job hunt.

Blackwell said it saved her money in the long run because going to Western Sydney meant she could earn a degree in one year instead of three and she was able to get a job sooner.

Lichty said his tuition cost is \$10,600 this year. He said each week he spends \$50 on food, \$135 on rent and \$50 on entertainment. He spends \$50 on phone bills a month, which doesn't include his long distance calls, because it costs 20 cents each time to use his home phone.

Blackwell said there is a large international student population at Western Sydney. The school tries to make the students welcome when they arrive. In addition, the

school has an international office on the Western Sydney Parramatta campus to answer all silly or legitimate questions.

Lichty said Western Sydney really takes care of international students. Most teachers have real-world experience and there are no more than 30 students per class for all his classes.

Blackwell said the education system is very similar because courses are delivered using similar methods such as tests, presentations, group projects, essays and exams.

He said Australia takes some getting used to because they don't pay the level of tax Canada does, so there are more homeless people and it's a little dirtier.

Blackwell said she thoroughly enjoyed studying in Australia. She would not change any of it including leaving home, selling her car and not seeing her family and close friends for a year.

It taught her a lot. She couldn't find red licorice for 10 months, but she saw wild kangaroos, strange lizards, koalas and amazing beaches, learned how to surf, went on sailing trips, travelled in a cyclone, developed lasting friendships with Australians and realized that Canada is just a small fraction of what people can explore and experience.

Lichty said no matter what happens over the next six months he'll never regret going to Australia.

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: Goal-Setting

I used to make New Year's resolutions that generally didn't last past January 10th. It's that fresh feeling of having a chance to solve problems, achieve new heights and challenges that encourages us to set goals. As the new year begins, we are often excited with our good intentions for positive change, despite past resolution failures.

My experience at a "Changeways" workshop helped me to recognize why my New Year's resolutions never worked. I didn't need more motivation; I needed smaller goals, or at least my long-term goals needed to be organized into easily manageable steps. Many of us tend to set goals that may be out of reach ("This semester, I'll get all A's"). As a result, we feel let down, frustrated, even powerless when the first disappointing grade appears.

Instead, a long-term goal, such as "I want my grades to improve this semester" is more attainable. A step-by-step approach might include: attending all classes, with only sickness as an exception; staying ahead by doing textbook reading prior to class; and seeking help when necessary from faculty or a peer tutor. The latter are smaller, achievable goals that will almost assuredly lead to higher marks.

Set goals for yourself that are realistic, achievable and measurable. Failure saps confidence and motivation. Success builds confidence and motivation.

A Message from Student Services (2B02).

CORRECTION

In the Jan. 8 issue of Spoke it was incorrectly reported bursaries would be doled out the week of Jan. 8. In fact, they will be available from the registrar's office the week of Jan. 22. Spoke apologizes for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

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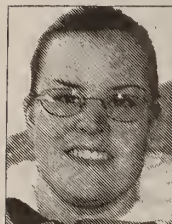
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Fitness still a popular resolution

By Kyla Rowntree

Studies, family also top New Year's list

It is that time again. The time we designate to sit down and think about resolutions we would like to make in the new year.



Wilson

Students at Conestoga College have put some thought into their resolutions for the new year as indicated in a random survey conducted at the Doon campus in December.

Sheena Wilson, a first-year law and security student, said one of her goals is to start working out.

"I have a fitness goal. I need to do some more running and I have a goal set that will help me reach my new year's resolution."

Heidi Kimmel, a third-year computer programming student, said she's never really made a resolution before, however this year is different.

"I'm going on a diet," said Kimmel. "I'm getting married in May and I want to lose weight. I think this program I'm taking has made me eat a lot. Being in third year, I think you eat a lot from all the stress. I also want to study more. I think I just failed the exam I wrote and I want to study more so I can do better."

John Donald, director of educational technology at the college, said getting in shape is a resolution.



Donald

"I need to work out two or three times a week," said Donald. "I have also made a resolution to



Kimmel

get more sleep and to spend more time with my family. I hope to stick to my resolution by working less and giving more time to myself and my family."

"I have a fitness goal. I need to do some more running and I have a goal set that will help me reach my New Year's resolution."

Sheena Wilson,
First-year LASA student

Christine Hallam, a second-year materials management student, said she plans to stop swearing in the new year.

"I need to stop swearing," said Hallam. "When I get really frustrated, I swear. It's pretty bad. I have also planned to not work as much in the new year. I have two

kids, I go to school full time and I work part time. I don't need to work as much as I do. My husband works and I think that's enough."

Eden Bekele, a second-year materials management student, said she needs to put more effort into her school work.

"I need to start studying more," said Bekele. "I'm slacking off in my classes, I think. I have made a resolution to work less and study more."

Mike Oxbig, a second-year marketing student, said there are a few reso-



Bekele



Oxbig

lutions he has this year.

"I need to hang on to a job for more than six months and I need to buy a car and most of all I need to lose my winter coat," said Oxbig, pointing to his stomach.

Alfred Maikano, a second-year materials management student, said he needs to study harder.

"I need to stop going to all the disco clubs," said Maikano. "I know I still pass all my courses, but I need to study more and stop going out as much."

Darrell Brown, a second-year accounting student, said he doesn't bother making resolutions.

"I tend to make resolutions as I go along," said Brown. "I make goals for myself throughout the year. I don't make them just because it's a new year."



Brown

Conestoga's Pub Night



Fiddlers Green

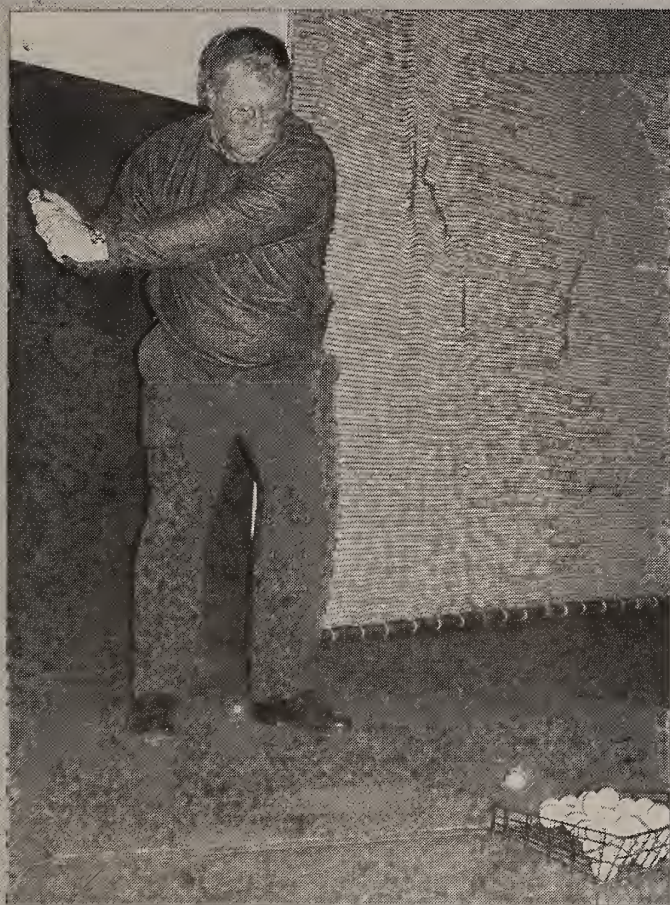
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5 Bucks for the bus, NO COVER!

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And now teeing off...



Tony Martin, Conestoga College's development manager at the recreation centre, practises his golf swing at the indoor driving range set up inside one of the squash courts at the rec centre. Martin, along with two other CPGA golf professionals, will be giving lessons seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The driving range is also open free of charge to all students during times when lessons are not scheduled.

(Photo by Kirsten Filfield)

Condors scratch out win

Viveiros notches hat-trick in victory

By Lisa Hiller

Jeff Viveiros scored a hat-trick and the winning goal in the Condors' last soccer game of the year to beat top premier league team SNP United 6-5 on Dec. 21 at the Doon campus recreation centre.

Viveiros scored the first goal of the game less than 30 seconds into the half. He was open, received a pass and put the ball off the post and into the net.

Alfredo Maikano scored the Condors' second goal and Sheref Sherifali scored to put them up 3-0.

Condor goalie Ivica Ambramovic anticipated passes in front of the net and made some good saves.

SNP United kept coming though and scored two goals before the end of the half as they were left wide open in front of the net. This cut the lead to one at 3-2.

The game got increasingly physical as it went on. Goals went back and forth.

SNP United tied it at three when Ambramovic let an easy one go in from about mid-field early in the second half.

Jose Rivas scored to tie the game at four on a shot that the SNP United goalie only got a piece of.

SNP United scored again and Viveiros scored his second goal of the game to tie it at five.

Ambramovic continued to make



A SNP United forward streaks past a Conestoga defender during indoor-soccer league play Dec. 21. The contest was an evenly matched, back-and-forth affair with the lead changing hands four times. The Condors eventually won the game 6-5, on the strength of Jeff Viveiros's hat-trick and solid goaltending from Ivica Ambramovic.

(Photo by Lisa Hiller)

some good saves and keep his team in the game, despite having to bear the brunt of Conestoga's defensive lapses. However, a collision near the end of the game caused the ejection of Ambramovic and Doug Oberholzer of SNP United.

The call was for hitting and then arguing with the referee.

The players stayed on the floor,

using some harsh words to describe the refereeing, before finally leaving the game.

The incident seemed to upset SNP United and Viveiros was able to pot a third and go-ahead goal to hand SNP United its first defeat of the season.

One blue card was also handed out to Conestoga player Ilias Tsatsas.

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to

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30

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